



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
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Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

February 6, 2004

Dear Interested Parties:

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND FORMATION AND FIRST MEETING OF STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) FOR BACTERIA-IMPAIRED WATERS TMDL PROJECT I FOR BEACHES AND CREEKS IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION

The purpose of this letter is to 1) inform interested parties that the Regional Board is forming a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) to participate in the development of the *Bacteria-Impaired Waters TMDL Project I for Beaches and Creeks*; 2) describe the work commitments associated with participation in the SAG; 3) to solicit interested SAG members; and 4) announce a second public workshop and the first meeting of the SAG on March 9, 2004.

Background

At a public workshop held on March 27, 2003, the Regional Board announced that it was developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the bacteria-impaired waterbodies in the San Diego Region. This project includes 18 impaired waterbodies, and is referred to as the *Bacteria-Impaired Waters TMDL Project I for Beaches and Creeks* (Bacteria Project I). This project includes TMDL calculations for roughly 24 miles of coastal shoreline and inland surface waters (creeks). The remaining 20 bacteria-impaired waters will be addressed in an upcoming subsequent TMDL project known as *Bacteria Impaired Waters TMDL Project II for Bays and Lagoons* (Bacteria Project II). This project is in its very preliminary stages and will result in TMDL calculations for roughly 2000 acres of impaired bays and lagoons and 26 miles of impaired coastal shoreline adjacent to lagoons.

In order to assist the Regional Board in the development of the technical portion of the Bacteria Project I, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) contracted with the environmental consulting firm, Tetra Tech. Tetra Tech's primary role is the development of a Region-wide watershed model that is used for TMDL calculation. The draft Technical TMDL Report is nearing completion, and will be made available on our website (www.swrcb.ca.gov/rqcb9) for public review and informal comment no later than 4 p.m. on February 24, 2004. Regional Board staff will develop the Implementation Plan with participation from the SAG. A tentative schedule for this project is provided near the end of this letter.

Stakeholder Advisory Group

As announced at the March 2003 public workshop, the SAG will have two primary purposes: 1) provide review and informal comments on the draft technical portion developed by Tetra Tech

California Environmental Protection Agency

and the Regional Board, and 2) participate with the Regional Board in the development of the Implementation Plan. Participation as a SAG member will require a substantial commitment of time for document review and informal comment. It will also involve attendance at several meetings over the course of the next year.

The SAG will be comprised of various stakeholders including representatives from the San Diego, Riverside and Orange County municipalities, environmental organizations, research and academic community, and the Regional Board. Ideally the group will be comprised of no more than 10 individuals (not including Regional Board staff) in order to be large enough to encompass all points of view, but small enough to make significant progress.

The Regional Board would like to invite representatives from the following five categories to participate in the SAG:

1. Five total representatives from municipalities in the San Diego, Orange and Riverside counties distributed as follows:
 - a. 1 representative from the San Diego Bay watersheds.
 - b. 1 representative from the San Diego/Penasquitos (Mission Bay) watersheds.
 - c. 1 representative from the Carlsbad/San Dieguito watersheds.
 - d. 1 representative from the Santa Margarita River/San Luis Rey watersheds.
 - e. 1 representative from the San Juan watershed.
2. One to two representatives from the environmental community.
3. One representative from the academic and research community.
4. One representative from the public at large.
5. One representative from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Caltrans may choose to be represented by another entity, such as the municipalities listed above.

Interested parties from each of these five categories should coordinate among themselves to determine who will serve on the SAG. Please provide us with the names and contact information of the SAG representatives by March 5, 2004.

Public Workshop and SAG Meeting

On March 9, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. at the Regional Board office, the Regional Board will hold a public workshop to present the draft technical portion of the Bacteria Project I TMDL Report. A public notice about the workshop is included in this letter as an attachment. At the workshop, staff from the Regional Board will make a presentation on the project, along with Tetra Tech, who will make a presentation describing the methodologies used to develop the technical document. All members of the public are invited to attend the public workshop. **Directly following the public workshop, the first meeting of the SAG will be held. The SAG representatives should plan to attend both the public workshop as well as the first meeting of the SAG.**

Members of the SAG should come to the first meeting having reviewed the draft Technical Report that will be made available on our website no later than 4 p.m. on February 24, 2004. In

addition, SAG members should come to the meeting prepared to discuss and provide informal comments on the technical portion of the TMDL Report. **Written informal comments on the draft Technical TMDL Report are due from members of the SAG in writing no later than March 23, 2004.** As necessary, a second SAG meeting will be scheduled for early to mid April 2004 in order to continue to provide input and discussion on the draft Technical Report.

The Regional Board will complete revisions and send the final draft technical document out for formal peer review at the end of April 2004. After the Technical TMDL Report is sent out for peer review, the Regional Board will begin developing the Implementation Plan for the Bacteria Project I with the participation of the SAG.

Tentative Bacteria Project I Schedule

A tentative schedule projected through the start of development of the Implementation Plan is provided below:

Action	Completion Date
Draft Technical TMDL Report available on website	February 24, 2004
Public workshop and first SAG meeting	March 9, 2004
Informal comments on draft Technical TMDL Report due from SAG	March 23, 2004
Second SAG meeting (as necessary)	Mid April 2004
Complete revisions of draft Technical TMDL Report	Late April 2004
Send out draft Technical TMDL Report for formal peer review	Late April 2004
Begin development of Implementation Plan	May 2004

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Bacteria Project I. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christina Arias or Lesley Dobalian of my staff. Ms. Arias may be contacted by phone at: (858) 627-3931, or e-mail: ariac@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov. Ms. Dobalian may be contacted by phone at: (858) 637-7139, or e-mail: dobal@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

/S/

John H. Robertus
Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Attachment: Notice of Public Workshop dated February 6, 2004

cc: Peter Kozelka, US Environmental Protection Agency
Terry Fleming, US Environmental Protection Agency
John Craig, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Steve Carter, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Renee DeShazo, Los Angeles RWQCB
Linda O'Connell, SWRCB
Greg Frantz, SWRCB

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